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Dead rats must be bacteriologically examined and in case of positive results the houses in which they were found must be disinfected. Observation of such houses is recommended.

The degree to which communication with the vicinity of suspected localities is prohibited depends on the nature of the communication, and the application of strict measures is not recommended. In the case of a house situated in a garden, only the grounds need be watched. In houses built in a block, the entire block must be observed. In the case of the poor, the entire street should be under observation.

Plague infection in Kobe traced to ships' sweepings.

In Kobe there exists a trade for handling ships' sweepings. This trade includes many articles which are of some value, as, for instance, rice, beans, cotton wad, fragments of iron, and not infrequently of copper, silver, also silver and gold coin. The sweepings are examined at a particular place, and articles of value are sold to 3 dealers, whose names are Yata, Hashimoto, and K. Adachi. The rest is burned or thrown into the sea at a distance of at least 12 kilometers from the harbor.

Among the vessels from plague ports not in Japan which have been handled by this trade we find the steamship *Kagoshima Maru*, which arrived from Bombay, by way of Colombo, Singapore, and Hongkong, on October 7, 1899, and the cargo of which consisted chiefly of Bombay cotton and Chinese rice. The sweeping of the ship was given to the company named on the 10th of the same month. The materials found in the sweepings were given to the two merchants, Yata and K. Adachi. The 2 patients, Y. Adachi and K. Kawai, were workmen employed by these merchants. They had much to do with the materials found in the sweepings. Some of the stuff was sold to other dealers. Cases and deaths were traced to these foci.

One patient, a little girl, was employed to feed chickens. It was found that rice used in feeding the fowls was from the sweepings of the rice cargo.

JAPAN.

Disinfection of steerage passengers at Yokohama discontinued.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, August 20, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the disinfection of steerage passengers, which has been carried on at this port since the first outbreak of plague last November, has been discontinued.

This discontinuance has been brought about through the disinclination of the steamer companies to pay the expenses of a disinfection depot under circumstances in which disinfection is not absolutely required by the terms of the law, and I have consented to the same in view of the facts that no case of plague has occurred in Japan for over one month, that no other infectious quarantinable disease is now prevalent anywhere within this Empire, and that emigration of the lower and laboring classes is now practically prohibited by the Japanese Government.

It is, however, clearly understood by the shipping interest here that should epidemic quarantinable disease appear at any time the precautions of the law will be strictly carried into effect, and that it must supply the needful establishment and equipment.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.